

1           A RESOLUTION congratulating Reverend Dr. Joshua A. Harris, Sr. as the newly  
2 installed Pastor of the First Gethsemane Baptist Church.

3           WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Joshua Antoine Harris, Sr. proudly hails from the inner  
4 city of Cincinnati, Ohio. As the son of a pastor and skilled social worker, he developed an  
5 early awareness and sensitivity for the human condition; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Harris accepted his calling into the preaching ministry at 18 years  
7 old and served as an associate minister of the Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist  
8 Church in Cincinnati; youth pastor for Zion Hill Baptist Church in Blue Ash, Ohio; senior  
9 pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mathews, Virginia; and the senior pastor of the St.  
10 Timothy Missionary Baptist Church in Cleveland before becoming the senior pastor at  
11 First Gethsemane Baptist Church in the fall of 2020; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Harris earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Relations with  
13 a minor in Marketing from Northern Kentucky University, a Master of Divinity from the  
14 Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, and a doctorate  
15 degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; and

16           WHEREAS, Dr. Harris believes the church is the cornerstone of the community and  
17 the source of both spiritual and social change. He continues to focus on "Ministry that  
18 Matters" and he's established ministries which address drug addiction, civic engagement,  
19 community development, and economic empowerment; and

20           WHEREAS, one of Dr. Harris' proudest achievements was becoming one of the  
21 first African American pastors in the country to develop a ministry that served individuals  
22 in the special needs population along with their families; and

23           WHEREAS, Dr. Harris is a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.  
24 He married his best friend and his "amazing grace," Courtney Lynn, and they have one  
25 son, Joshua Antoine Harris, Jr.;

26           NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***

1 ***Kentucky:***

2       ➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby recognize and commend Reverend Dr.  
3 Joshua A. Harris, Sr. on his appointment as Pastor of the First Gethsemane Baptist  
4 Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

5       ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Reverend  
6 Dr. Joshua A. Harris, Sr.

7       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
8 Resolution to Senator McGarvey for delivery.